

State Historical Resources Commission
Archaeological Resources Committee
Position Papers

The Past

Over the last three to four decades, the public has sought to affect change in some of the policy areas that are topics of the draft white papers. These efforts have met with varying degrees of success, and, when such efforts have fallen short, they have often left no enduring public record to inform and guide the public or the legislative or executive branches of government on subsequent attempts to affect change in these policy areas.

The Present

The Committee chose the goals and objectives of the most recent iteration of the *California Statewide Historic Preservation Plan (Plan)* as a starting point to begin to affect changes in a number of policy areas related to preservation archaeology. The State Plan covers the period from 2006–2010 and includes a strategy to promote preservation archaeology in California. The goals and objectives of this strategy are largely drawn from the *1995 Preservation Task Force Sub-committee on Archaeology Report of Findings*, found on page 41 in the *1997 Plan*. The Plan defines five areas in which professional archaeological practices may improve:

- Curation
- Conservation
- Interpretation
- Preservation
- Standards & Guidelines

The Committee has enlisted assistance from individuals from around the state to capture what the archaeological community feels is the current situation versus the ideal situation for each of these areas, and to suggest ways in which we might bridge the gap. After the authors (listed after each paper topic) volunteered, they reviewed past decades' work and solicited comments from their peers. These papers are now part of the long-term administrative record of the public's efforts to affect change in the State's policies on the aspects of preservation archaeology discussed in the papers.

The Future

The Committee plans to present the position papers to the SHRC for consideration and adoption at the third quarterly meeting of the SHRC in 2009. Building upon the foundation of this formal adoption by the SRHC, the Committee then hopes to:

- establish clear standards and guidelines for the performance of archaeological investigations in California
- disburse these standards and guidelines to groups responsible for and affected by these standards and guidelines
- affect enforcement of these standards and guidelines

The Committee foresees the fruition of these hopes to take several years because of several factors, including:

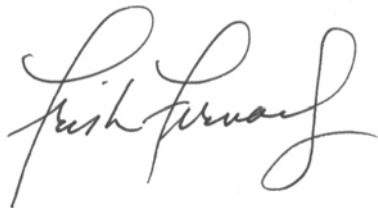
- an ample amount of time is needed to establish relationships with interested groups, gather meaningful input from those groups, then to document and integrate their input
- if and when the position papers are adopted by the SHRC, they will simply establish broadly defined solutions to the major issues that plague the profession; the Committee will then have to move forward with prioritizing the recommendations that are put forth in the papers and develop very specific actions plans for each priority
- affecting meaningful enforcement of standards and guidelines includes legislative or statutory action, which requires the involvement of individuals or entities that have legislative advocacy experience.

We Need Your Help

The Committee needs your help as an individual or representative of a group interested in or affected by how professional archaeology is practiced in California. We need your input.

Each paper has three sections: 1) The Current Situation; 2) The Ideal Situation; 3) How to Bridge the Gap. We need your input on the third section of each paper, the solutions part of the paper. Have we adequately explained our solution but in a broad enough way that specific tasks can be derived from them in the future? Are there additional solutions that we haven't presented? If you have input on these papers—or if you simply have questions, please email them directly to: SHRC_ARC@YAHOO.COM. Please keep in mind, however, that the comment period will close October 31, 2008.

Thank you for your time and interest.



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State Historical Resources Commission